LOCAL NEWS

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Fuel Oil Cut One Cent a Gallon

The price of fuel oil in Victoria was cut by one cent a gallon from today, by Texaco Oil Company.

The announcement coincided with decision by another major oil company, British American Oil Company, to remove the one-cent price increase for fuel oil announced last week.

Texaco informed its local distributor, C. Ellis Fuels Ltd., that its price for furnace oil would be reduced to 19 cents a gallon.

The move was unexpected, for in the past few days the price of heating oils was raised by B-A Oil here and in Eastern Canada and the Maritimes, while other major companies including Texaco and Imperial Oil announced similar increases in the east.

Announcing the price cut, B-A Oil said the price of 19 cents a gallon for Solar Heat fuel oil is effective immediately in western British Columbia and the Yukon.

Last Friday the company blamed steadily rising costs for the boost in fuel oil price to 20 cents throughout B.C.

Metropolitan Observes 100 Years of Progress

DR. F. E. H. JAMES
. . . the significance

REV. LAURA BUTLER
. . . of this hour

MRS. T. HARRY JOHNS
. . . pastor's daughter

RT. REV.
ANGUS MacQUEEN
. . . special trip

City Church Achieves Centenary

Metropolitan United Church will look back this Sunday, and through February, on 100 years of progress since it had its start.

That start was in the form of a service in Victoria's city jail, the only suitable building available, Feb. 10, 1859. The service was attended by four Methodist missionaries and a handful of townspeople.

Before 1859 was out, the old Pandora Street Methodist Church at Pandora and Broad had been erected.

BECAME TOO SMALL

That church served until it became too small and then the church at Pandora and Quadra was built and opened in 1891. The congregation of Metropolitan Church still includes a few who were at the opening services there, and they will be honored guests at the anniversary services.

At the morning service this Sunday, both pastors, Dr. F. E. H. James and the Rev. Laura Butler, will give brief addresses on "The Significance of This Hour." The evening service will be unusual: Mrs. T. Harry Johns, daughter of a former pastor, Dr. W. J. Sipprell, will speak on "The Highlights of 100 Years," and there will be an exhibition of old pictures, Bibles, letters, and a model of the Pandora Avenue church.

"HIDING IN THEE"

A quartet with violin accompaniment will sing "Hiding in Thee," which was sung at the first service. The violin used then will be exhibited.

Scheduled to speak at the morning service Feb. 8 is the moderator of the United Church of Canada, Rt. Rev. Angus J. MacQueen, who will make a special trip to Victoria from the east to take part in the centennial observation.

NEW ACCOMMODATION

The church recently led off its celebrations by deciding to proceed with construction of new accommodation for its Sunday school, a new chapel, and renovation and repair of its organ and choir loft. The new building will be erected on property acquired on Pandora to the east of the main building, and total cost of the work program has been placed at close to $200,000.

Dr. Ephriam Evans, one of the four missionaries sent by the Wesleyan Missionary Society in Toronto at the pleading of Christians distressed about conditions on Vancouver Island, was the speaker at the first service in the jail.

The Methodists met there again in March to plan the raising of money for a church, and the cornerstone was laid that August.

Church membership is now 1,500.

All Set for Health Week

Pronounced sound as a dollar, 11-year-old Terry Pearson, 1215 McKenzie, gets final check at Sir James Douglas School from school physician Dr. K. D. Vaughan, right, and school nurse Sheila MacDonald, before emerging to face National Health Week, Feb. 1 to 7, with a smile. School health authorities are constantly on the job during the school year guarding the health of pupils. Importance of their work is underlined during National Health Week. —(Colonist photo.)

Ex-Yukoner Plans Association

He's Panning for Sourdoughs

Anyone See A Breakup?

Sourdoughs are rising in Greater Victoria.

Rising, that is, to form a local association of those people who have lived in the Yukon or Alaska and can properly be called "sourdough."

Gordon R. Lee, 59, for 36 years a Yukon merchant and now retired to Brentwood, is supplying the "yeast" for the project. He was a Yukon Territory councillor for 10 years and a justice of the peace at Whitehorse.

80 IN AREA

He describes a sourdough as "anyone who has seen, in Alaska or the Yukon, the freezeup in the fall and the breakup in the spring."

There are about 80 persons in this area known to fill the bill, Mr. Lee said last night.

And many of them will be on hand at an organizational dinner at 6.30 p.m. tonight in the Pacific Club.

CATCH UP ON NEWS

"The idea in forming an association is to help these people catch up on the news of their old northern neighbors and associates," said Mr. Lee.

"Also, since some of them are old bachelors and widows, we want to see to their welfare and let them know they are not forgotten."

YOUNG OR OLD

There are also some young people in the area who would rate as seurdoughs — and young or old, they're invited to get in touch with Mr. Lee at 931 Clark Road, Brentwood, phone Keating 36-G.

The Brentwood sourdough was also instrumental in bringing to Victoria this August the annual convention of the Alaska-Yukon Pioneers.

GOOD SPENDERS

"That's going to be one rip-roaring gathering, too, let me tell you," he said. "They're good spenders and some of them might even be carrying a little gold dust.

"There'll be about 500 of 'em and all raring to mark the 62nd anniversary Aug. 17 of the discovery of gold in the Klondike." The big Klondike gold rush didn't hit its stride until 1898.

PART OF PIONEERS

It is proposed that the new Victoria organization become a part of the Alaska-Yukon Pioneers, similar to long-established groups in such places as Vancouver, Seattle, and Long Beach, California.

"A Victoria chapter will serve to attract those sourdoughs who are retiring and moving 'outside,'" said Mr. Lee.

In the Legislature

Waldo, Cows, Docks, Fumes

Works Minister W. N. Chant referred to Opposition Leader Robert Strachan's complaint of not getting an invitation to the inaugural PGE trip.

"He didn't earn it," quipped Health Minister Eric Martin from across the floor.

"How did Waldo Skillings earn it?" snapped back Mr. Strachan.

Mr. Skillings was a guest on the trip and is a close friend of Premier Bennett.

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Herbert Bruch (SC-Esquimalt) last night asked for a change in the pound law to make owners of cows and other animals responsible for keeping their animals at home.

"It is ridiculous that people have to build fences to keep out one or two cows in the Esquimalt district," he said.

He also asked that the B.C. Government Travel Bureau, now on Superior Street, be moved to where it would be handy to tourists.

Public Works Minister Chant suggested that exhaust fumes from trucks and buses could cause cancer.

He said no heavy vehicle should be allowed to operate on B.C. highways unless its exhaust pipe was eight feet from the ground.

He said trucks and buses with exhaust pipes coming from beneath were almost nauseating to drivers behind them.

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Labor Minister Wicks envisaged a great dock and wharfing area along the Fraser River up to Mission City.

"There is no reason why the banks of the Fraser could not become the second city of London with docks and wharf facilities as far inland as Mission City, 35 to 40 miles upstream, or even farther."

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Randolph Harding, the likable CCFer representing Kaslo-Slocan, is rapidly becoming the legislature's "golden-haired boy."

Tuesday night he won compliments from both Premier Bennett and Attorney-General Bonner, and the approval of public gallery spectators, when he said he considered the unemployment situation above politics.

Yesterday he was heaped with praise by J. Donald Smith (SC, Victoria), Works Minister Chant (SC, Victoria) and Herbert Bruch (SC, Esquimalt).

"He has something on the ball," Mr. Chant said.

"He makes it a more stately legislature," said Mr. Smith.

"I am not joining your party," replied Mr. Harding, obviously embarrassed.

School Blaze Probed

Saanich firemen today will investigate the cause of a mysterious blaze which did $250 damage to a classroom at Frank Hobbs elementary school on Haro Road yesterday.

Although school was over for the day, some pupils were still in the building when an unidentified girl saw flames in No. 9 classroom and called for help.

The fire, which destroyed a large cupboard containing school property and part of a wall, was definitely not caused by faulty electrical wiring, assistant fire chief Thomas Moss said.

Firemen and trucks rushed from No. 1 firehall on Douglas and No. 3 firehall on Shelbourne, when the alarm was turned in by John R. L. A. Hayes, principal. The school serves pupils from Gordon Head and Ten Mile Point as well as the immediate vicinity.

GEORGE BALL

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Seen In Passing

George Ball delivering the mail. (He has been a postman for 12 years and figures he has walked 3,000 miles in each of the years. Last year he wore out three pairs of boots. He and his wife, **Irene**, have five children, **John**, 17, **Stewart**, 13, **Lawrence**, 9, **Susan**, 4, and **George**, 11 months) . . . **Monty Montgomery** visiting his old friend, **Tom Uphill** . . . **Mrs. Kay Jeffries** on her way to lunch . . . **Mrs. Nina Clarke** on the job at Goodwill Enterprises . . . **Const. L. J. Mottershead** receiving a promotion from the city police commission . . . **Sandra Wood** busy shampooing and setting hair . . . **Wilf Johnston** talking about bowling.

Smartness in Darkness Not for City Police

No use looking smart in the dark . . .

Police Chief John Blackstock was asked by cost-conscious police commissioners yesterday if the policemen were required to turn in their old caps when issued with new ones, or what happened to them?

"We generally keep the old caps for night work," the chief assured them.

$608,000 For Police

City police commission yesterday tentatively approved a $608,000 preliminary budget for this year.

Last year's final police budget was $29,000 lower, but the preliminary budget is intended only as a guide to the city comptroller and is subject to trimming in the next couple of months by the commission.

The policemen have asked for a 15.9-per-cent wage boost, which if granted in full would add about $71,500 to the budget.

Split the Costs To Live Cheaper

Colonist reporter Ted Shackleford has been assigned to live on $55 for a month to discover how senior citizens on old-age security or old-age assistance payments live and what their problems are

He will be available in The Daily Colonist office—EV 3-4111—between 4 and 5 p.m. each day.

By TED SHACKLEFORD

The secret of living on $55 a month seems to be in finding someone to share costs with.

Of two $55-a-month pensioners I spoke to yesterday, one lives with his wife, also a pensioner and the other shares his house with a sister-in-law. A third, drawing $75 a month, lives with his daughter.

Frederick J. Knudson, 78, of 140 Olive Street, and Mrs. Knudson live on their combined pensions of $110 a month, and Mr. Knudson doesn't want any more money.

"I think the rise (from $46, 15 months ago) helped create inflation," he said. "There is a limit to how you can handle free money."

He suggested that four single pensioners on only $55 a month could band together, rent a three-roomed apartment between them and could eat for $100 a month.

Mr. William Hyde, 89, of 111 Medina, is a $55-a-month pensioner who is not eligible for the provincial supplementary assistance payment — he owns his own home.

"There are not many getting the $20," he said. "Not 40 per cent of them are getting the whole $20. It is scaled.

"That means test is the rottenest thing on the earth. So many have been forced to sell their homes to qualify and they live in shacks."

Mr. Hyde shares his home with a sister-in-law. Food costs them about $70 a month, but on top of that there are a number of expenses which must be met.

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Reporter Skips His First Meal

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Electricity, water and gas cost about $22 a month, leaving $18 to pay taxes on the property (about $150 a year), heating and upkeep.

"The means test is not honest as many people will their homes over to sons and take all their money out of the bank before applying," he said.

Mr. Hyde has no income apart from his $55 pension and has no bank account.

Another viewpoint on pensions came from C. Tapping, an active 76 years old, who receives both the federal pension and the full $20 supplementary assistance payment. He lives at 1036 Craigdarroch with his daughter.

"A man can come here, from Germany for instance, at the age of 60 and live in Canada for 10 years. And then he can get the same pension as a person who was born here and has lived here all his life," he said.

"And the man doesn't have to become a Canadian citizen of swear allegiance to the country."

Mr. Tapping, who is purser of the Thermopylae Club, came to Canada from England 52 years ago. He was one of the pioneer farmers in the Metchosin and Patricia Bay districts.

He also pointed out that present regulations do not cover the period from 60 years of age, when many persons are compulsorily retired, and 65, when they become eligible for old-age assistance payments.

Reduced bus fares, exemption from the provincial sales tax, payment of pensions outside Canada and abolition of the Senate as "an old-age pension club of political appointees" also came under fire.

"The Senate is just an old-age pension club with members getting $10,000 a year," Mr. Tapping said. "There are more than 100 of them so there is $1,000,000 a year. If they were elder statesmen it would be a good thing for the country, but they are just political appointees."

Yesterday I had more success with my cooking, but I missed lunch because I was too busy. Lunch time came and went with a few hunger pains while I was chatting to a pensioner in his home.

Breakfast was puffed wheat, sugar, powdered milk and two cups of tea. For dinner I bought a half pound of pork liver and begged a little fat from the butcher—he usually gives it to pensioners free of charge.

I rendered down the fat and dined royally on slightly burned liver and slightly underdone onions, with two cups of tea.

Apart from the liver (17 cents), I bought two pounds of flour (23 cents), a two-pound pack of pancake mix (28 cents), and spent 26 cents on two bus rides to see the pensioner at lunch time.

My total expenditure to date is $23.59, including 19 cents for matches I bought before the month began, and forgot to include in my costs.

So far, visiting pensioners and meeting people, I have accepted two cigarets; a short, thin cigar and two cups of tea. I have had to refuse cigarets, jelly, buns, cookies, coffee and sherry.

Today I hope to investigate a rumor that canned corn beef hash can be bought cheaply.

I'll start the day off, of course, with puffed wheat, powdered milk, two slices of toast and marmalade, and two cups of weak tea.